


# Meteor



# Heraut

Published by the USAG Benelux

Volume 23, Number 23

Chièvres - Schinnen - Brussels

December 2, 2005

## Quick Read

### SHAPE/Chièvres

#### Holiday Mailings

To ensure Christmas packages arrive back home to friends and family, the Post Office recommends the following deadlines:

Dec. 02 PAL Parcels  
Dec. 09 Priority Parcels  
Dec. 09 First Class Mail  
Dec. 21 Express Mail

Chièvres Air Base APO provides package mailing, stamp and money order services 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon.-Fri. through Dec. 16.

#### Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The SHAPE and Chièvres annual holiday tree lighting ceremony will be held Dec. 2, 5 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, Chièvres Air Base.

#### Standing Guard

The Minnesota National Guard Soldiers who provided force protection at Daumerie and Chièvres Air Base in 2004 are deploying downrange as part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division (Red Bull) Task Force for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### USAG Benelux

#### 39th Signal Bn. Honors Employees

Four 39th Signal Battalion civilian employees received awards for their work in 2005.

T.J. Love, the battalion S-4, received the Senior System Civilian of the Year award.

Martine Gevaert, a budget analyst, was honored as Senior System Host Nation Employee of the Year.

Wendy Corley, a help desk technician at USAG Brussels was named Base System Civilian of the Year.

Bertrand Destrebecq, a digital telephone technician for the Network Service Center at Chièvres, received the Base System Host nation Employee of the Year award.

The 39th Sig. Bn. provides data and voice communications across the USAG Benelux.

## Native American Heritage Month

# Morning Star Dancers spread culture, tradition

By J.D. Hardesty

Gathered from across the continent, eight Native Americans representing 18 tribal affiliations performed their cultural dances during two performances Nov. 15; one for students at SHAPE schools and the other for the community at the SHAPE Theater.

Led by Gary Fields, the singer, storyteller and speaker for Morning Star Dancers, Native American students, a former Soldier and retiree from the Army Air Force Exchange Service and his wife entertained both audiences while sharing their message of native culture.

In 1984, Fields and Morning Star, a Native American performing arts group, started sharing their music, the intricate hoop dance and stories of native culture across America and Europe, the latter as part of Armed Forces Entertainment programs.

Fields explained the hoop dance, “represents the circle of life... everything from day and night to life and death to family, community, the nation and the world.”

He further explained how many of the dances performed, such as the gourd dance, shawl dance, stomp dance and sun dance are part of the native culture immemorial. Others, such as the fancy dance and hoop dance, have been created since European contact.

Sponsored by the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation as part of the USAG Benelux’s Native American Heritage Month celebration, the group also performed at USAG Schinnen.



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

A Morning Side Dancer performs the “fancy dance” Nov. 15 at the SHAPE Theater as part of USAG Benelux’s Native American Heritage Month celebration.

## Ron ‘Tater Salad’ White, Robert Hawkins bust up USAG Benelux

By J.D. Hardesty

Two former service members deployed to the European Theater as part of the USO’s Comedy Tour, invaded Caserne Daumerie’s Prime Time Lounge and the USAG Brussels’ Three-Star Lounge Nov. 22.

Robert Hawkins, a former Soldier who served three years in the Army in the late 1980s, but now regularly opens for comedian Ron White of the Blue Collar Comedy Tour, kicked off the laughs while making fun of nearly every military service with such jokes as why all advertisements about the Army show people on monkey bars.... “Are they training to invade recess?”

White, known for his comic routine with fellow Blue Collar comedians Jeff Foxworthy and Larry the Cable Guy, carried



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Comedian Ron White

The two will perform nine shows in eight days in Europe.

his trademarked cigar and a glass of scotch, pointed most of his “for mature audience” puns inward at his life-style.

White served two years as a quartermaster in the Navy.

“Robert and I came here to thank you,” he said of his first USO Tour. “We wanted to give something back to the people serving today to say thank you for helping us sleep soundly.”





**Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski**  
**USAG Benelux Commander**

Please let this edition of the Notes serve as my holiday message to you. We will cover a variety of subjects here that more or less relate to the season.

First, there are community Christmas tree ceremonies and holiday events: **Chièvres and Brussels hold their tree-lighting ceremonies tonight (Dec. 2),**

## Nowowiejski Notes

**and Schinnen has breakfast with Santa tomorrow (Dec. 3).** To keep up with the latest holiday schedule information, please check the garrison websites. You can link to all of them beginning at: [www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil).

Keep in mind the needy in our communities and those who are deployed and the families of those deployed this holiday season. Thank you again for your support to this year's Combined Federal Campaign, which closes within the next few days. You truly have helped many of those with needs through this campaign.

For everyone, as part of the holidays, **please practice a simple word of good cheer and encouragement to those around you this month. Remember those who are deployed from among us:** many individual deploy-

ments, including several from various NATO headquarters to Afghanistan, the pending deployment of members of the ARRC at Rheindahlen, and the 79th Veterinary Detachment deployed from Daumerie Caserne already for several months this holiday season. The 79th is making an important contribution at several locations in harm's way in Afghanistan. The most tangible thing we can do in our communities is to support the families who remain behind. Simple acts of kindness go a long way.

**The holidays present unique safety challenges.** Many of you will travel across Europe by car. Remember the special challenges of driving in winter weather due to road conditions and darkness. Insure your car is mechanically ready to drive. Please give extra time and take extra rest for those win-

ter trips.

Now that it is cold, be on guard for space heater fires and carbon monoxide from improper ventilation or defective heaters. Think ahead about who will be the designated driver to holiday parties.

A lot of people experience sadness and depression during the holiday season. Don't ignore signs of depression or thoughts of suicide in those around you. Don't walk by safety problems.

**There are many agencies available in communities to help with the problems we all experience at this time of year,** from financial counseling to personal or family counseling. The Chaplains stand ready to assist and to encourage. Many assistance programs are under the umbrella of Army Community Service for our joint communities. If you are down, please tell a friend, and don't be afraid to get help. Our communities have the resources to help you. Have a safe and positive holiday

## Battle of the Bulge walk Dec. 17

CHIEVRES, Belgium – The 28th memorial walk commemorating the Battle of the Bulge, the greatest land battle in U.S. Army history, will be held Dec. 17, in Bastogne, Belgium.

The walk this year, 6, 14 or 20 km, is around the eastern defensive line held by paratroopers of the 501<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in December 1944.

The walk begins at 8 a.m. at a new location this year, the Centre Sportif "Porte de Trève".

There is a mandatory 4 euro charge per person for walker's insurance. The fee also includes a certificate from the

city of Bastogne and a small souvenir. Pre-registration and payment by Dec. 5 is strongly recommended. Refunds cannot be given.

The walk finishes in time for three wreath-laying ceremonies downtown. The public is invited to participate in the parade which begins around 2:45 p.m. The traditional nut thrown from the town hall balcony is immediately afterwards.

Americans in Germany must register [ed.germany@t-online.de](mailto:ed.germany@t-online.de) or fax: 0049-(0)6507-80-2617; tel: 0049-(0)6507-8292. Americans in the Benelux register at [sb325983@skynet.be](mailto:sb325983@skynet.be) or tel: 0032-(0)2-687-6158.

### SHAPE Schools

#### Advisory committee meets

SHAPE High School and Elementary School will host School Advisory Committee meetings open to all parents interested in becoming involved in their children's education.

The SHAPE Elementary School will host its advisory committee meeting Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., in the American Elementary School's media center (library). For more information, call Civ: 065-311302.

The SHAPE High School will host its advisory committee meeting Dec. 15 at 4 p.m., in the American High School's media center. Call DSN 423-2657 or Civ: 065-44-2657.



### Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
Dec. 5	Dec. 16	Jan. 16	Jan. 27	Feb. 13	Feb. 24	Mar. 13	Mar. 24
Jan. 3	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Feb. 10	Feb. 27	Mar. 10	Mar. 27	Apr. 7

## About the Meteor-Heraut

The *Meteor-Heraut* is an authorized unofficial civilian enterprise newspaper published for the U.S. Army under AR 360-1 for U.S. military personnel in the Benelux nations under exclusive agreement between the USAG Benelux and AdvantiPro GmbH of Kaiserslautern, Germany, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense. Editorial content is provided by public affairs offices of the USAG Benelux and the USAG Schinnen. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the USAG Benelux. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Army, or AdvantiPro GmbH of the products or services advertised.

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The *Meteor-Heraut* is published twice per month. Circulation is 5,000. Our mailing address is Meteor-Heraut, USAG Benelux, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068 27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 32. Email address: [meteor@benelux.army.mil](mailto:meteor@benelux.army.mil)

#### Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.

- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.

- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.

- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

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- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Meteor-Heraut* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered.
- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.
- Advertising requests may be directed to AdvantiPro GmbH, at 49 631 30 335599.

#### Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

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Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski ..... USAG Benelux  
Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson ..... USAG Schinnen  
Lt. Col. Patrick J. Kilroy ..... USAG Brussels  
Lt. Col. John G. Romero ..... Chièvres Garrison

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Cis Spook ..... Chièvres Garrison  
J.D. Hardesty ..... Writer



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### ‘In the early morning rain’

Soldiers, Airmen and civilians from across the USAG Benelux footprint invaded the Waterloo battlefield recently for a unit run.

With feet pounding the pavement in unison, the fitness route snaked across the battlefield terrain where thousands of Napoleon Bonaparte's and the Duke of Wellington's troops died...across the historic Hougoumont farm compound and back to the Waterloo Battlefield visitor's Center and a climb up the Butte Du Lion monument.

Nearly 55,000 of the more than 200,000 British, French, Dutch, Austrian and Prussian Soldiers died on the bloodstained rolling hills in the space of half a day.

A contingent from U.S. Army NATO SHAPE Battalion and the 309th Airlift Squadron joined members from across the USAG Benelux footprint in the run.

PHOTO: Master Sgt. Ronald Kirkemo



## Newsworthy Notes

### AFN TV expands to 4 housing areas



U.S. families living in Ghlin, Obourg, Maisières and Casteau housing areas now have access to all AFN television channels through their cable system. The recently completed project saves families

the cost of buying a decoder and satellite dish.

Although AFN is channeled thru the local cable system, televisions must be programmed to receive the VHF-UHF signal. To find out more information visit [www.afneurope.net](http://www.afneurope.net), or call DSN 361-5404, Civ: 068-27-5404.

“Expanding AFN TV service to these housing areas is just another example of reaching out to our Chièvres Garrison community,” said Lt. Col. John G. Romero,

Chièvres Garrison commander. “This, along with AFN Radio and the Meteor-Heraut newspaper, is another command information tool to keep our families informed about our support and service.” For more information, call the work reception center at DSN 361-5404 or commercial 068-27-5404.

### Benelux Finance reduces operating hours

The Benelux Finance Office cash cage on SHAPE has recently reduced it's operating hours from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 423-5251 for more information.

### SHAPE Healthcare Facility holiday hours

The SHAPE Healthcare Facility will be closed Christmas and New Year's day, with holiday operating hours on Dec. 23, 24, 26, 31 and Jan. 2 from 1-10 a.m. with minimal staff available. The clinic will be open from 8-11:30 a.m. on Dec. 22, 27-30 with a full staff. For emergencies, patrons are directed to use local host nation facilities where a liaison will assist in obtaining the required care.

# Advertisement



# USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News

## Tri-border Thanksgiving Feast



By Laurri Garcia

Unaccompanied and single service members from throughout the Tri-border area, as well as family members of deployed service members attended a free Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 21, at the International Inn on Headquarters Joint Forces Command Brunssum, The Netherlands.

Hundreds turned out to enjoy the food and fellowship sponsored by JFC Brunssum Air Force and Navy elements, AFNORTH Army Battalion, Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base and U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen.

This event's success is based solely on the efforts of volunteers and contributions from the Tri-border community.

***"We had a great turn out and everyone seemed to really enjoy the food," said Melissa Broadwater, one of the many volunteers who gave of their time to make this event happen.***



The free Thanksgiving feast is an annual Tri-border community effort that focuses on those who might not take the time to fix a traditional Thanksgiving meal for themselves and ensures they know they are appreciated and remembered during the holiday season.

"This is a great event, said Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, Commander U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, it shows the pride and sense of community we share here in the Tri-border area."

"We had approximately 200 people come out to eat and about 15 volunteers who helped us cook," said Broadwater. "At one point I was afraid we were going to run out of food, but that didn't happen, there was more than enough and everyone left full and happy."

Volunteers served free Thanksgiving dinner to Tri-border unaccompanied and single service members as well as family members of deployed service members at the annual Tri-border event Nov. 21.

Photos by: Sylvia Bowron





# USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News



**Lt. Col. Rick Richardson**  
**USAG Schinnen Commander**

As the holiday season approaches we have so much to be thankful for; our family, our friends, and the opportunity to spend the season in a wonderful country getting to know new people and experiencing different holiday traditions.

## Commander's Holiday Message

As many of you know, serving your country, particularly this time of year, can be a difficult and lonely time. The service of our men and women in uniform and their civilian counterparts is essential to our country and our way of life. Deployments and separation are just some of the challenges today's service members face.

Here at U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen we are blessed to celebrate the season in a safe, comfortable environment surrounded by people who care.

As you reflect on the past year, be proud of your dedication and professionalism, but don't forget those who aren't as fortunate. Keep them close in your thoughts, hearts,

and prayers.

I extend to you my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

We have an array of success stories from 2005 to be proud of; President Bush and Queen Beatrix's visit to Limburg, the successful implementation of our strategic plan, Operation Market Garden, the Army Community Service and School Age Service accreditation, the implementation of the Standard Garrison Organization and our memorable transition from the 254th Base Support Battalion to U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen.

These are just a few of the countless events and achievements that we have to be proud of.

I urge each of you to take a moment to reflect on your personal achievements and the success of this garrison. Each or you

exemplifies why our motto "Your Community of Choice" rings so true.

Enjoy this time with your loved ones. It is my hope each of you will emphasize to your family and those around you their significance in your life and the importance of their presence in your success. Just as I hope this message conveys that thought to each of you.

Keep safety first and foremost in all you do and finally, I wish you many blessing, much peace, and continued happiness today and all year through.

Happy holidays.

Rick Richardson  
Lt. Col., U.S. Army  
Commanding

### Know the laws

## Drinking, driving in The Netherlands

### *The Netherlands Law Center*

Let's face it; alcohol is part of everyday European life. Instead of a Starbucks, we find breweries on street corners. Wine is acceptable with every meal.

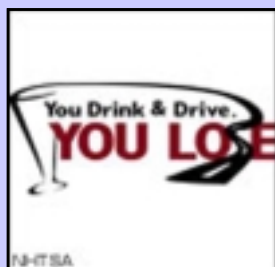
As a result, soldiers stationed here may find themselves at the bottom of many a glass. However, such opportunity does not negate our responsibility to drink responsibly.

Do not drink and drive is the rule—not the exception! According to Article 8 of the Dutch Traffic Law it is forbidden to drive a vehicle (including riding a moped or bicycle) if you are under the influence of alcohol.

In The Netherlands, you are under the influence when a breathalyzer test shows more than 220 micrograms of alcohol per liter of breath or a blood alcohol test shows a level of alcohol higher than .5 milligrams of alcohol per milliliter of blood, which is just half the UCMJ criminal prosecution threshold.

Dutch authorities will stop a person for erratic driving or may stop a driver at a random alcohol checkpoint.

What does this mean for the soldier, family member or DoD ci-



vilian who gets stopped? When ordered by the police, a breath analysis test is compulsory. Failure to submit will lead to criminal prosecution and immediate revocation and confiscation of the driving license.

If the outcome of the initial breath analysis test is positive, you will be taken to the police station or K-Mar headquarters for a more detailed breathalyzer test. You will be tested twice, to rule out an error of the machine.

Finally, Dutch authorities are authorized to demand a blood sample to further a Dutch criminal investigation.

What can happen if you test positive beyond the Dutch legal limit depends on your level of intoxication and your military or civilian status.

For service members, Dutch authorities will notify and turn you over to the Military Police, who can

suspend your license from 90 days to a year depending on the circumstances.

The Netherlands Legal Office will then request a release of jurisdiction for military action. Punishment can range from an Article 15 to a court-martial under the UCMJ. Furthermore, depending on a soldier's rank, a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand (GOMOR) may be issued.

Finally, in more serious cases, the Dutch may keep jurisdiction and prosecute you to the full extent of the Dutch law.

For civilians, Dutch justice authorities always have full jurisdiction to prosecute. Your case may be handled in one of three ways: a direct fine, an out-of-court settlement (fine), or prosecution before a Dutch criminal court.

Moreover, your license is likely to be confiscated, as well as suspended.

The Dutch authorities take drinking and driving as seriously as our police back in the United States. Enjoy your time here, but do so responsibly.

Do not drink and drive. And if your backup plan involves a horse, wait before you saddle up, partner, because riding a horse while under the influence is against the law too!

### Mark your calendars!

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. in the Schinnen Bowling Center.

USAG Schinnen, Tri-border Town Hall Meeting, Dec 7, at 7 p.m. in the Schinnen Fitness Center.

## International Tour of Homes

Sponsored by:

American Spouses' Club

&

International Spouses' Club

Dec. 11

1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Visiting 10 homes

Open to NATO ID cardholders and guests

No children please

For tickets email tour of homes@richardsonfamily.net



# USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News

## Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

**Dec. 2-Jan. 1:** European Christmas Market at Grote Markt, Sint-Katelijneplein and Vismarkt in the center of Brussels (BE) with 240 stands, ice-skating rink, rides and lots more.

**Dec. 3-4:** Christmas Fair at Nekkerhal in Mechelen (BE). Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Dec. 3-6:** Christmas Fair at Beursgebouw, next to the central train station, in the center of Eindhoven (NL). Open every day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: 8 Euro.

**Dec. 8-10:** Christmas at Castle Cannenburch, located in Vaassen (NL). The rooms of the 18th century mansion are beautifully decorated for Christmas. The tables are set and give the impression of guests expected for a festive dinner any moment. A Christmas Market is located around the castle. Open: Thursday and Friday, 12:30-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Dec. 8-11:** Outdoor Christmas Fair at "Heerlijkheid Mariënwaerd" Estate near the town of Beesd (NL). Entry: 8 Euro. Open: Dec. 8-10, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Dec. 9-10:** Christmas Market through the center of Orange town Buren (NL). Open: Friday, 4-10 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.

Christmas Fair at Keukenhof Estate near Lisse (NL). Open: Dec. 9, 4-10 p.m. and Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Entry: 5 Euro.

Christmas Antique and Curiosa Market in the rooms of Castle De Renesse on Lierselei 30 in Malle (BE). Open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Dec. 9-30:** Christmas Market at Groenplaats in the center of Antwerpen (BE).

**Dec. 10-11:** Flea Market at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: 5 Euro.

**Dec. 12:** Christmas Market in the center of Neeroeteren (BE). Open 4-11 p.m.

**Dec. 13:** Candle Night in Gouda (NL). Thousands of candles are lit in the windows of the beautiful town hall and surrounding houses in the center of the city. The highlight of the evening is the lighting of the candles in the huge Christmas tree at 7 p.m. at the square.

**Dec. 13-18:** Christmas at Castle Middachten. The castle near the town of De Steeg (NL) is beautifully decorated for Christmas and opens its doors for the public. A Christmas Market can be found in the castle's outbuildings. Entry: 8 Euro. Open: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Dec. 14-18:** Christmas Market in the center of Leuven (BE).

**Dec. 17-18:** Dickens Christmas Fest and Christmas Market. The center of Deventer (NL) is converted into a city out of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

**Through Dec. 20:** Christmas Market in "Fluweelengrot" (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg 27 in Valkenburg (NL). A unique Christmas Market in a winter wonderland fairy tale theme. Open in December on weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: 3.50 Euro; children 1.75 Euro. Information: 31 (0)43-6090110.

**Through Dec. 23:** Christmas Market in the majority of German cities. Christmas Market around the town hall in the historic center of Aachen (GE). Open daily 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Christmas Market at several locations in the center of Cologne (GE).

Christmas Market in the beautiful town of Monschau (GE). Only open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 2-8 p.m.

**Through Dec. 31:** Christmas Market in a Cave, an attractive fair at Gemeentegrot (cave) in the center of Valkenburg (NL). Open on weekdays, noon-9 p.m. and on weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: 3.50 Euro; children 1.75 Euro.

**Through Jan. 8:** Winterland at Vrijthof in the center of Maastricht (NL). The square is transformed into a large ice-skating rink. There is an old-fashion steam carousel and stands with glühwein, hot chocolate and winter food. A Christmas Market is scheduled in the same square and surrounding streets through Dec. 26.



PHOTOS: Rita Hoefnagels

U. S. Army Garrison Schinnen Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Rusch, accompanied by his wife Julie, is presented the Legion of Merit by Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, USAG Schinnen commander

## CSM receives top honors

By Laurri Garcia

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Rusch was presented the Army Legion of Merit at the USAG Schinnen monthly awards ceremony Nov. 16.

Rusch received the award for exceptionally meritorious service as Command Sgt. Maj. Western Sector U.S. Military Processing Command.

Rusch was instrumental in the establishment of an enlistment processing facility in the Las Vegas area which helped Army recruiting efforts.

"This is a very prestigious award, not one that is given everyday, and we are honored to have Command Sgt. Maj. Rusch as part of our USAG Schinnen team," stated Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, Commander, USAG Schinnen.

Rusch who served at USMEPCOM from March 2003 to July 2005 arrived at USAG Schinnen in August accompanied by his wife and son.



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